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19

Sol Pictor.

CARMEN LATINUM,

IN THEATRO SHELDONIANO RECITATUM

DIE JUNII XIV. M DCCC LXXI.

AUCTORE

FRANCISCO PAGET,

EX ÆDE CHRISTI.

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M DCCC LXXI.

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Sol Pictor.

"Sol tibi signa dabit. Solem quis dicere falsum
Audeat?"

NON equidem arva canam, nedum præconia regum,
Nec Bacchi laudes, nec mœnera militiai,
Pectora nec blandâ cuppedinis icta sagittâ;
Res nova carmine pangendast poscitque poetam.

At tu, quicunque hæc multo quæsita labore
Legeris et noctes multas vigilata serenas,
Sis memor, et te præceptis præbere memento;
Ne tua cum curis vitai dedita sit mens,
Quæ tibi dona fero pereant perlapsa per aures,

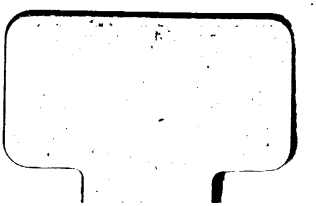
Inque auras mihi nequicquam labor effluat omnis :
More puellarum quas narravere poetæ
Infernos latices pertusum congerere in vas.
At mihi si vacuas aures semotu' sequaci
Sollicitudine præbueris mentemque sagacem
Usque adeo miram miranti rem tibi paucis
Versibus exponam qualem neque Tartara leti
Nec mare nec cœli jactant penetralia templa.

Atque hoc principio paucis, adverte, docebo,
Quod cupio posthac claris exponere verbis :
Sol tibi picturas reddet simulacraque certa.
Quod fieri tibi si potero pervincere, dictis
Dede manus, et pictorem solem venerare.

Illud in his rebus primum tibi commemorabo.
Namque operimenti vitreo sub tegmine pictam
Si tabulam inclusam multas noctesque diesque
Servâris cistâ, secretam luce diei,
Quæ tamen ante diu perfusast lumine multo,
Tum demum adspiras vitai flamine vitro :
Expressam in vitreo picturam tegmine cistæ

Tenuiter invenies longo post tempore eandem,
Qualiter e speculo tibi viva redundat imago.
Hoc vero inter se longe differre notabis
Picturam in cistâ positam vitreumque imitamen :
Namque hoc amisit tenuit quos illa colores,
Albumque apparet nigrum tibi quod fuit ante,
Et retro nigrum ostendit pictura quod album.
Scilicet hæc quodam gignuntur luminis ictu,
Etsi difficile esse videtur credere solis
Formamenta tibi radiis imitata referri,
Lumine quæ supra docui privata carere.
Quod nunc quo pacto confiat dicere nitar
Quoad mihi sermonis veterum concedit egestas.

Nec tamen ignoro, rerum propter novitatem,
Cuncta tuis quæ luminibus præpandere vellem
Quam sit difficile antiquis exsolvere dictis.
At tua vementer virtus hortatur et urget
Exemplumque tuum, sapientum octave, Lucreti,
Quos Graii memorant longeque ex omnibu' princeps.
Qui reserare olim divinis versibu' quisti
Et mundi rationem et fœdera naturai,



Luceque pars perfusa siet quæ nigra videtur.
Tum tabulam demum tenebris includis et arcâ
Quam Phœbi radiis penetrandist nulla potestas.
Nec mora: quos olim biberat pictura, soluti
Exsiliunt alacres radii volitantque per umbras:
Quo more e claustris exsultat fortis equûm vis,
Exspectata diu dederit cum gausapa signum.
Ast operimentum vitreum ilicet excipit in se
Protenus exortum lumen radiosque fugaces.

Jamne vides igitur quam sim tibi vera locutus
Hoc quum confieri per lucida tela docerem?
Quippe etenim radii dum lumine pervia vitri
Corpora pervadunt hâc ipsâ transitione
Effigiem efficiunt quandam, mutantque colores.[a]
Quod similest ut cum soli supponimu' lina,
Quæ tibi continuo canescunt luminis ictu.
At quæ principio facie sunt visa nigranti,
Quippe ubi amant in se radios admittere plures,

[a] M. Moser thus ascribes the phenomena of dark photography to the invisible light radiated from all bodies: which so acts upon the smooth surface as to alter its power of condensing vapour: so that the figures appear when the plate is breathed upon.

Scilicet inde iterum plures remigrare solutos:
Quæ tamen alba cluent nullos effundere quibunt,
Quandoquidem nullos unquam bibere instituerunt.

Illud in his quoque te rebus cognoscere par est
Quod quidam fingunt fieri,[b] simulantque calorem
Efficere hoc potis esse remoto lumine solis.
Quin etiam quidam faciunt ut dicere pergant
Nil opus esse jubar solis neque flammai vim;
Omnia quandoquidem, quæcunque imposta polito
Argentove diu rutilove reliqueris auro
Æreve vel vitro, soleant imitata referri.
Quod si forte voles horum in præcepta relabi
Usque adeo numerosa tibi argumenta requiram,
Ut tandem dictis te victum confiteare.

Nam si quis negitet mutari lumine vitrum,
Atque ignem causam fingat vel proximitatem,
Hoc illi objiciam manifestius argumentum.

[b] Mr. Hunt denies the existence of invisible light, and considers the phenomena due to the disturbance of latent caloric, producing a molecular change in the plate on which the copy is taken.

"Quid?[c] tu nonne vides, si quando argentea soli
Pocula subdideris, nigrescere luminis ictu?
Quod si quis subter terram defoderit ingens
Argentum et cistâ tutum servârit avarus,
Ad superum erectum limen splendebit ut ante."
Quare etiam atque etiam sol deturbare diurnâ[d]
Luce loco potis est proprio primordia rerum:
Quæ rursum inter se concurrunt ordine certo
Unde oculis alium efficiat res quæque colorem.

Hæc homines olim cum mirarentur inepti
Unde ubi quâ vi et quo pacto contingere possent,
Cum flammis stolide miscentes fulgura solis;[e]
Exposuit princeps fierent quo fœdere rerum

[c] "In 1556 it was noticed that horn silver was blackened by the sun's rays."—*Hunt's Researches on Light*, p. 5.

[d] "It is now established that the sun's rays cannot fall upon any body without producing a molecular disturbance, or a chemical change. Whereever a shadow falls a picture is impressed."—*Hunt's Researches on Light*, p. 278.

[e] "It is clear that the early experimentalists knew not how to distinguish the operations of Light, Heat, and Electricity from each other."—*Ib.* p. 10.

Schelæus,[f] Pomeranus homo, causamque retexit:
E tantis primus tenebris qui tollere gentem
Humanam valuit rationemque edere veram,
Atque potestati solis defigere fines.
Diluit ille etenim argentum medicamine tali[g]
Ut nova materies concresceret in crystallum,
Qualiter in glaciem concrescit liquor aquai.
Deinde hâc materie chartas ille imbuit albas
Sub noctis prudens tenebris, ut luce carerent;
Quæ porro eductæ dias in luminis oras
Ante oculos admirantis nigrescere pergunt.
Hoc vero radii solis præstare potessunt
Non omnes pariter: non omnibus una potestas,
Nam citius violæ radius qui tinctu' colore est
Chartam obfuscabit: rubro immutata manebit.

[f] Charles William Scheel, of Stralsund, in Swedish Pomerania, one of the most brilliant philosophers of his or any age, was the first who analysed the action and studied the influences of the differently coloured rays of light.

[g] "He (Scheel) discovered that the chloride of silver spread on paper was speedily darkened in the blue rays, while the red rays produced but very little or no change."—*Hunt's Researches on Light.*

Ilicet inde alid ex alio clarescere cæpit.
Namque ut picturam docui se tradere vitro
Quod varii refluunt radii tranantque tenebras :
Sic etiam excipiet claram mage charta figuram.
Omnia quippe etenim quæ candida cunque refulgent
Seve colore suo violaria vincere jactant,
Effusis facient radiis nigrescere chartam :
Quæ vero piceâ partes caligine nigrant,
Vel quæ puniceo fucata colore rubescunt,
Scilicet haud medicamentum mutare valebunt.
Ast alii pariter radii sibi quisque colorem
Efficient proprium : si primo clarior ardet
Nigrius in chartâ expressam mirabere formam ;
Sive nigro propior, chartam mutare nequibit :
Unde tibi exsistet picturæ verum imitamen
Excepto quod candescent quæ nigra cluebant,
At quæ candida erant, nigrescere cuncta videbis.
Si vero hoc ipsum cures imitari imitamen,
Alteraque excipiat medicamento oblita charta,
Scilicet in priscos properet remigrare colores.

Nec tabulas tantum poterit tibi reddere Phœbus.
Quin etiam vultus hominum camposque virentes.

Et quæcunque oculi spectant imitarier audet.
Quis potis est laudes illius dicere dignis
Versibus, qui princeps radiorum colligere agmen
Invenit vitrique usu magicoque canali?
Quippe etenim lucis crystallina lamina flumen
Cogit in angustum contractoque agmine fundit
Grandior ut possit se scena impingere chartæ.
Nobilis[h] ille fuit, genuit quem Gallica tellus,
Gallica, quæ nuper belli concussa procellâ
Audiit armorum sonitum vocesque minantûm,
Quum pubem ad pugnam Germania mitteret ardens.

Rem vero quum mens desideret edere totam,
Hoc mihi quodcunque est ævi multo ante periret
Omnia quam possem claris exponere dictis,
Quæ tibi, si cordi est hâc exercerier arte,
Observanda sient multoque paranda labore:
Usque adeo brevis est miseris mortalibus ætas.

At tu, curriculum per cœli lucida templa
Qui regis igniferum, radiis qui conseris arva,

[h] M. Daguerre, whose discoveries were reported in January, 1839, specimens being shown to the scientific world of Paris.

Quo sine nil pulchri penetravit luminis oras,
Phœbe, fave nixo tua mœnera pangere homullo.
Quippe etenim quod nos vitali vescimur aurâ,
Quódque arbusta vigent, homines, genus omne animantûm,
Mœneris omne tui est: tibi tellus dædala ridet,
Exortoque tibi pergit submittere flores.
Nec me animi fallit quot sint tua mœnera: namque
Te medicus, vates, verus veneratur haruspex,
Improbus adducto tibi miles supplicat arcu.
Pestis quin etiam si quando invaserit urbes,
Dira, deûmque ferens ægris mortalibus iram,
Omnes attoniti passim tua templa petessunt,
Et mortem veriti Pæanis numen adorant.

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